Director who shall be appointed by the President/Chairman of the Deemed University from a panel of 3 or 4 names suggested by a Committee.

(d) No case has come to light that the appointment has been made in contravention of the rules and regulations.

Visit of Senator Hank Brown

4863. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any discussions were held by Senator Hank Brown with the Union Government, on India-US relations, during his recent visit to India; and

(b) if so, details and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) Yes, Sir. Senator Hank Brown met with Foreign Secretary during his recent visit to India.

(b) Discussions with Senator Brown were of a general nature covering a wide range of bilateral and regional issues.

[*Translation*]

Ranjeet Sagar Dam

4864. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards the newsitem captioned 'Much water will flow waste fully to Pak' appearing in 'The Hindu' dated August 2, 1996;

(b) if so, whether the construction work of Ranjeet Sagar on river Ravi is not expected to be completed within the targeted time;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Ravi water is not being fully utilised in Punjab and the same is flowing to the said foreign country; and

(e) if so, whether the Government propose to take some special measures for extending their support in the construction of the said dam?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Construction of Ranjit Sagar Dam on River Ravi has been delayed due to various reasons like land acquisition in J&K, availability of funds with Government of Punjab and damage to diversion tunnels due to high floods in the past. Availability of funds is a major constraint in the completion of the project even now.

(d) After completion of the Ranjit Sagar Dam project and Shahapur Kandi Project in Punjab, India will be in a position to utilise the average annual flow of Eastern Rivers of Indus System i.e., the Ravi, the Beas and the Sutlej which comprise full share of India according to Indus Water Treaty 1960.

(e) Union Government is making all efforts at various levels so that the project is completed by targetted date.

[*English*]

N.H.-53

4865. SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Jiribam-Imphal portion of National Highway-53 is single lane with low load carrying capacity of bridges;

(b) if so, whether there is a proposal to convert the highway into a double laned one;

(c) if so, the steps taken to start the construction work thereon to complete the work at the earliest; and

(d) other improvements proposed to be added on this National Highway during 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The construction work is likely to commence in this year.

(d) Work on five bridges are in progress besides other works worth Rs. 108.00 lacs. The following works have also been planned during 1996-97 for development to NH lane specifications:

(i) Formation 14.84 Kms eqvt cl-9 specifications.

(ii) Surfacing 13.85 Kms eqvt cl–9 specifications.

(iii) Pmt Works Rs. 55.49 lacs.

Construction of Big Canal

4866. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to construct two big canals one originating from North East Part of the country and ending towards Southern part of the country and second originating from Northern part of the country and proceeding towards southern .part of country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the estimated cost involved therein; and

(c) if not, the reasons for not starting such a viable project?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) to (c) Captain Dastur, a pilot by profession submitted a proposal for Garland Canal. It mainly consists of two canals, viz., (i) a 4200 km. long and 300 m wide Himalayan Canal at an elevation between 335 meters and 457 meters above the Mean Sea Level (MSL) aligned along the Southern slopes of the Himalayas and extending southwards beyond Brahmaputra up to Mayanmar border and (ii) a 9300 km. long and 300 m wide Central and Southern Garland canal at an elevation between 244 meters and 305 meters above the MSL. The Himalayan and Garland canals were proposed to be interconnected at two points (Delhi and Patna) by pipelines for transfer of water. The cost estimated by Captain Dastur (around 1974) was Rs. 24,095 crores.

The proposal was examined by two committees of Experts comprising Experts from Central Water Commission, State Governments and Professors who were of the opinion that the proposal was technically unsound and economically prohibitive. Preliminary studies carried out by the Central Water Commission (around 1979) indicated that the cost of the Dastur proposal would be about Rs. 12 million crores. The scheme was, dropped being technically unsound and economically prohibitive.

Conversion of Anganwadis

4867. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have proposals to bring all the I.C.D.S. projects under the Central Sector;

(b) whether the Government propose to convert the units of Anganwadis into basic educational institutions and allot them the job of providing pre-school education; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the facilities being provided under the latest package of ICDS scheme?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme has been universalised during 1995-96 and, accordingly, a decision has been taken, with the approval of Minister for Human Resource Development to convert all the on-going 511 State Sector ICDS Projects to Central Sector ICDS Projects. Of these 511 projects, 194 State Sector projects will be converted into Central Sector Projects during 1996-97. The remaining 317 State Sector Projects will be converted into Central Projects w.e.f. 1.1.98, i.e. after conclusion of the World Bank assistance for these projects.

(b) and (c) The ICDS Scheme provides a package of services to children below 6 years of age, pregnant women and nursing mothers. Non-formal pre-school education to pre-school children in the age group 3-6 years forms an important component of the package of services under the ICDS Scheme. The operational anganwadi centes are, accordingly, organising pre-school activities for children in the age group of 3-6 years. And since pre-school education forms an integral part of the package, the question of converting anganwadi centres into basic Educational Institutions does not arise.

Girls Schools

4868. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI S.P. JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that there is shortage of Higher Secondary and Senior Secondary Schools for girls in various districts of Uttar Pradesh particularly in Allahabad;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal for opening girls Higher Secondary and Senior Secondary Schools in the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*Translation*]

World Bank Assistance for Irrigated Land in U.P.

4869. SHRI SOHAN BEER : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has agreed to provide assistance for increasing the percentage of irrigated land in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any concrete suggestions have also been given by the World Bank in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.